

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----024256 210954Z /14-R  
R 210700Z JUN 77  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4690

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAGHDAD 1027

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM IZ  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS - COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR IRAQ

REF: (A) STATE 138665, (B) BAGHDAD A-25

1. WE AGREE WITH MOST STATEMENTS IN NEA/ARN'S DRAFT BUT  
FIND OVEREMPHASIS ON MISTREATMENT OF MINORITY GROUPS AND  
INSUFFICIENT STRESS ON VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. WE  
APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT.

2. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING SELF INTEREST IN  
IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, MEMBERS OF MINORITY  
GROUPS CLAIM DISCRIMINATION ON PART OF GOVERNMENT DOMINATED  
BY ARAB-MUSLIM MAJORITY. THE REAL PROBLEM IN IRAQ IS  
THAT ANYONE, INCLUDING AN ARAB SUNNI MUSLIM WITH BAATH  
PARTY CREDENTIALS, CAN BE ARBITRARILY DETAINED, ARRESTED,  
TORTURED AND EXECUTED. CHRISTIAN MINORITIES CERTAINLY  
MEET WITH DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT IN SOME AREAS OF LIFE  
BUT THIS IS MUCH LESS TRUE UNDER DOCTRINELY SECULAR  
BAATH REGIME THAN IT WAS A DECADE AGO. THE SITUATION  
FOR CHRISTIAN MINORITIES IS FULLY EXPLORED IN REPAIR,  
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 16.

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3. AS FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, OUR LIMITED KNOWLEDGE  
SUGGESTS A SLIGHT AMELIORATION OF THEIR TREATMENT DURING  
RECENT YEARS. IRAQI JEWS CAN AND DO EMIGRATE, IF THEY  
ARE WILLING TO LEAVE THEIR PROPERTY BEHIND, SOMETHING  
WHICH WAS FORBIDDEN A FEW YEARS BACK. ONCE AGAIN, THE  
REGIME IS IN THEORY A SECULAR ONE AND IS AT PAINS TO

DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ZIONISTS AND JEWS. HARASSMENT OF JEWS, WHICH CERTAINLY DOES EXIST, IS IN GOOD PART A RESULT OF THE BEHAVIOUR OF BUREAUCRATIC BULLIES WHO DO NOT YET FEEL RESTRAINED BY ANY SERIOUS OFFICIAL COMMITMENT TO FAIRPLAY. A FACTUAL NOTE: WHILE WESTERN MEDIA FOCUSED ON JEWISH IDENTITY OF SOME OF THOSE WHO WERE EXECUTED AS SPIES IN 1969 AND WHILE GOI PLAYED UP ALLEGED ZIONIST TIES, MOST OF THOSE EXECUTED WERE SUNNI MUSLIMS. THE DRAFT SHOULD BE REVISED TO AVOID FALSE IMPRESSION THAT IRAQIS ARE KILLED FOR THEIR RELIGION. IT IS REPREHENSIBLE ENOUGH THAT FORMER CABINET MEMBERS, PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN AND ARAB NATIONALISTS HAVE MET VIOLENT DEATH AS A RESULT OF THIS REGIME'S BRUTAL EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POWER.

4. NEA/ARN MIGHT WISH TO STIFFEN ITS DESCRIPTION OF HOW REGIME SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATES INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER TO PROTECT THE BAATH LEADERSHIP. THE ARBITRARY AND OFTEN SEEMINGLY IRRATIONAL EXERCISES OF POLICE POWER MAINTAINS A CLIMATE OF FEAR WHICH THE REGIME PROBABLY CONSIDERS DESIRABLE. IN A SENSE, THE GOI IS A PRIMITIVE TOTALITARIAN REGIME WHICH CANNOT BEAR ANY DISSENT BUT HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED THE MORE SUBTLE WAYS OF SUPPRESSING IT.

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5. SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTED CHANGES OTHER THAN THE ABOVE ARE AS FOLLOWS: IN SECOND SENTENCE UNDER A.1., "THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTE LEGAL STANDARDS" SHOULD PROBABLY READ, "THERE ARE NO LEGAL STANDARDS PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS FROM ARBITRARY ARREST, ETC." AT LEAST WE ARE UNAWARE OF NONE. FOURTH SENTENCE IN A.2. SHOULD READ, "RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT MOST OF THOSE RESETTLED HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN TO KURDISH AREAS, IF NOT TO BORDER VILLAGES OR NECESSARILY TO THEIR ORIGINAL HOMES." FINAL SENTENCE IN A.2. SHOULD READ, "THE GOVERNMENT-BECAUSE OF ITS UNDERLYING FEELING OF INSECURITY--SIMPLY TREATS ANY SUSPECTED DISSIDENTS WITH UNIFORM SEVERITY." FINAL CLAUSE IN A.3. SHOULD READ, "THE REGIME BELIEVES THAT THE IRAQI MASSES HAVE A RIGHT TO AN IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING AND IS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE IT." WHILE IT DOES NOT EXCUSE TRAMPLING ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, THERE IS A STRONG PUSH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND THE REGIME ALLOCATES MAJOR RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE POOR.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
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R 210700Z JUN 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4691

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BAGHDAD 1027

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN

6. UNDERSTANDABLY, USG WANTS TO DO SOMETHING FOR THOSE FLEEING IRAQI REGIME. WE ARE NOT SURE, HOWEVER, THAT WEAKNESS OF RATIONALE BEHIND REFUGEE VISA PROGRAM IS FULLY APPRECIATED. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO PROOF THAT CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ ARE PERSECUTED FOR THEIR CHRISTIANITY, THE USG, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNHCR, ANNUAL ADMITS TO THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN A THOUSAND IRAQI CHRISTIAN "REFUGEES". THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE CHRISTANS ADMITTED AS CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS TO THE U.S. HAVE SUFFERED NO PERSECUTION AND ARE SIMPLY UTILIZING OUR REFUGEE PROGRAM TO EMIGRAT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE USG'S ACQUIESCENCE IN THIS USE OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM LEADS MANY IRAQIS TO REGARD OUR EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SOME CYNICISM. GIVEN THE LACK OF MORE FUCUSED AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ALLEVIATING IRAQI HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLA-TIONS, THE REFUGEE PROGRAM IS A RESPONSE WHICH WILL AT LEAST HELP INDIVIDUAL IRAQIS PREPARED TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY. WE MERELY BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT FOOL OURSELVES BY THINKING THAT IT ADDRESSES THE REAL PROBLEM.

7. EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON GOI CONDUCT IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. FOR ONE THING, NEITHER COUNTRY HAS A PARTICULARLY GOOD  
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RECORD IN THIS REGARD. OECD COUNTRIES ARE MORE LIKELY SOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE MORAL SUASION. THE IRAQI REGIME

IS SENSITIVE ABOUT ITS IMAGE IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED  
WORLD. COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE AND JAPAN, WHICH ENJOY  
REPUTATIONS FOR EVENHANDEDNESS ON THE PALESTINE ISSUE,  
WOULD GET A HEARING IF THEY WERE WILLING TO USE  
THEIR DIPLOMATIC CAPITAL FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN LANDING  
IRAQI CONTRACTS FOR THEIR FIRMS.  
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